

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 056376 VICE MRN 056234)
FOLLOWING REPEAT PEKING 0553, SENT SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG
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QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 0553

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CH US XA
SUBJ: PRC MOUNTS COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK ON SOVIET AFRICA POLICY

1. SUMMARY: A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY HAS SUMMED UP
PREVIOUS PRC PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON SOVIET AFRICAN POLICY
INTO A WARNING THAT MOSCOW IS ENGAGED IN A VAST STRATEGIC
PLAN TO DOMINATE AFRICA IN ORDER TO CONTROL ITS RESOURCES
AND OUTFLANK EUROPE. VIRTUALLY IGNORING THE CONTINENT'S
OF LIBERATION STRUGGLES, THE ARTICLE ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF
BEING THE MAJOR DESTABILIZING FORCE IN AFRICA. IT CRITICIZES
THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS "FEAR" OF THE SOVIET UNION
AND IMPLICITLY CALLS ON THE WEST TO TAKE STRONGER ACTION
TO OPPOSE SOVIET MOVES IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. PEKING'S STEADY DRUMFIRE OF CRITICISM OF SOVIET
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ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA HAS REACHED A HIGH POINT OF SORTS
WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY
MARCH 1 ENTITLED "THE SOURCE OF DISTURBANCE IN AFRICA."
THE COMMENTARY CHARGES THAT VIRTUALLY ALL MOSCOW'S ACTIONS
IN AFRICA ARE DESIGNED TO FURTHER MOSCOW'S "SOCIAL-
COLONIALISM," AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS BECOMING "THE
MAIN SOURCE OF DISTURBANCE IN THE CONTINENT."

3. THE COMMENTARY STATES THAT THE PRESENT TROUBLES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA ARE ONLY AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO DO THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT. THUS MOSCOW USES MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO "SUBDUE" AFRICAN COUNTRIES; ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS A MEANS TO PLUNDER NATURAL RESOURCES; IT USES "TREATIES OR OTHER EXCUSES" TO GAIN MILITARY BASES IN STRATEGIC BASES; IT TRIES TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENTS, RAISE PRO-SOVIET FORCES AND ORGANIZE FIFTH COLUMNS; IT HAS "ATTACKED, OVERTHROWN OR EVEN MURDERED" THOSE WHO DISOBEY. IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES MOSCOW HAS "HIRED AND ARMED CUBANS OR AFRICANS TO FIGHT AFRICANS." IT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF NATIONAL AND TRIBAL PROBLEMS WITHIN A STATE, DISRUPTING UNITY WITHIN STATES AND AMONG LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS.

4. AFTER THIS WARNING TO AFRICA, THE ARTICLE ADDRESSES ITSELF TO THE UNITED STATES. REMINDING US THAT THE SOVIET STRATEGIC AIM IS TO OUTFLANK EUROPE AND TO CONTROL NATURAL RESOURCES NEEDED BY THE WEST, THE COMMENTARY REFUTES "AN ARGUMENT IN THE WEST DESCRIBING THE SOVIET ACTION IN AFRICA AS ONLY FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS WITHOUT ANY FIXED STRATEGIC TARGET." THAT THIS ARGUMENT IS FALSE "IS PLAIN TO EVERYONE EXCEPT THE NAIVE." NEVERTHELESS, SOVIET GREED FOR EXPANSION HAS BEEN WHETTED BY "THE APPEASEMENT TREND AND THE SPREAD OF FEAR OF THE SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNION IN THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT YEARS." THE CUBAN "SEIZURE" OF ANGOLA WAS THE SOVIETS' "BIGGEST ARMED EXPANSION SINCE THEIR INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

5. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES ON A NOTE OF OPTIMISM. DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT, SUDAN, ZAIRE AND SOMALIA ARE A SIGN OF A NEW AWAKENING IN AFRICA WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF "SOCIAL-COLONIALISM" IN THE CONTINENT.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE ARTICLE IS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE TYPE OF PROPAGANDA CHINESE MEDIA HAVE BEEN SPEWING OUT FOR YEARS, IT IS NOTABLE FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FOR ONE THING, IT VIRTUALLY IGNORES THE BLACK-WHITE STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EXCEPT FOR ITS REFERENCE TO SOVIET-CREATED DISSENSION IN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ITS PASSAGE ON SOVIET HIRING OF AFRICANS TO FIGHT AFRICANS GOES A STEP BEYOND THE USUAL CRITICISM OF FOREIGN MERCENARIES AND COULD BE TAKEN AS A REFERENCE TO VIRTUALLY ANY COUNTRY WHOSE AGGRESSIVE POLICIES SEEM TO EXTEND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA (ALGERIA AND LIBYA, AS WELL AS ANGOLA, COME TO MIND). FINALLY, THE REFERENCE TO AMERICAN FEAR OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE REFUTATION OF THE "FISHING IN

TROUBLED WATERS" THEORY ARE AN OBVIOUS CHALLENGE TO THE
UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE TO TAKE A GREATER ROLE
IN COUNTERING SOVIET EXPANSION IN AFRICA.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO AF POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.
WOODCOCK UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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